

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (Currently amended) A video recording/reproducing apparatus capable of storing in a storage device a video signal received from a video signal source, and reproducing and outputting the stored video signal to an display device, comprising:

an input unit operated by a user for selecting a function supported in the video recording/reproducing apparatus, ~~selecting for the user to select~~ a predetermined buffer time among a plurality of allocated predetermined buffer times, and outputting a command; and

a main control unit for temporarily storing a received video signal in a buffer area allocated in the storage device if a command for temporary storage is received from the input unit so that a certain amount of the video signal received from the video signal source is temporarily stored in the temporarily allocated buffer area of the storage device for the selected predetermined buffer time, and for recording in the buffer area or in a non-recording area of the storage device in a long-term basis the video signal temporarily stored in the buffer area according to a set recording format if a recording command instructing a long-term recording process for the temporarily stored video signal of the buffer area is received from the input unit.

2. (Original) The video recording/reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

if the recording command instructing the long-term recording process is received from the input unit, the main control unit sets a new buffer area in a non-recording area of the storage device, records in a previous buffer area in a long-term basis a video signal temporarily stored in the previous buffer area, and records attribute information of the long-term recorded video signal in a set attribute information recording area.

3. (Original) The video recording/reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

if the buffer area in which the video signal is temporarily stored has a remaining storage space, the main control unit incorporates the remaining storage space into the non-recording area.

4. (Original) The video recording/reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

if the recording command instructing the long-term recording process is received from the input unit, the main control unit copies and records in the non-recording area of the storage device the video signal temporarily stored in the buffer area, deletes the video signal temporarily stored in the buffer area, and records in the set attribute information recording area the attribute information of the video signal recorded in the non-recording area in the long-term basis.

5. (Original) The video recording/reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

the attribute information of the video signal recorded in the attribute information recording area has at least any one of a start address, an end address, a recording rate, and a recording time of the video signal.

6. (Original) The video recording/reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

if a command signal for deleting the video signal temporarily stored in the buffer area is received from the input unit, the main control unit deletes the video signal temporarily stored in the buffer area.

7. (Original) The video recording/reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

an interface unit mounted in a main body to receive the command transmitted from the input unit.

8. (Original) The video recording/reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the input unit includes an external input unit which is external of the apparatus.

9. (Original) The video recording/reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein:

the external input unit includes a remote controller provided with a plurality of keys and transmits infrared signals corresponding to key selections.

10. (Original) The video recording/reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:

an interface unit mounted in a main body and including a light-receiving part for receiving the infrared signals transmitted from the remote controller.

11. (Original) The video recording/reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the video signal source includes any one of a tuner receiving broadcast signals, a disc player reproducing a signal recorded in a recording medium, and an external input port inputting video signals from external devices.

12. (Original) The video recording/reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the storage device includes a hard disc driven by a hard disc drive.

13. (Currently amended) A storage device control method for a video recording/reproducing apparatus capable of storing in a storage device a video signal received from a video signal source, and reproducing and outputting the stored video signal to a display device, comprising steps of:

storing a received video signal in a buffer area allocated in the storage device corresponding to a selected predetermined buffer time selected by the user by an input unit among a plurality of predetermined buffer times if a request signal is received from an input unit so that a certain amount of the received video signal from the video signal source is temporarily stored in the temporarily allocated buffer area of the storage device corresponding to the selected predetermined buffer time; and

storing the temporarily stored video signal of the buffer area in the buffer area or in a non-recording area of the storage device in a long-term basis according to a set recording format if a recording command instructing a long-term recording process for the temporarily stored video signal of the buffer area is received from the input unit.

14. (Original) The storage device control method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the step of storing to the set recording format includes steps of:

setting a new buffer area in a non-recording area of the storage device; recording the temporarily stored video signal of a previous buffer area in the previous buffer area in the long-term basis, wherein attribute information of the video signal recorded in the long-term basis is recorded in a set attribute information recording area.

15. (Original) The storage device control method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the step of storing to the set recording format includes steps of:

copying and recording the temporarily stored video signal of the buffer area in a non-recording area of the storage device; and

deleting the temporarily stored video signal of the buffer area, wherein attribute information of the video signal recorded in the long-term basis in the non-recording area in the deleting step is recorded in a set attribute information recording area.

16. (Original) The storage device control method as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

the input unit is external of the video recording/reproducing apparatus.